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Allen Dulles,  
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It was hard to think of gentle-voiced, tweedy, grandfatherly Allen W. Dulles, brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, as a denizen of those "dark back alleys" of the globe where the former Secretary of State Dean Rusk acknowledged the business of espionage takes place. Yet Mr. Dulles, who died late Thursday at 75, headed the Central Intelligence Agency for eight crucial years with a personal distinction undimmed by the constant charges and criticisms a secret agency naturally draws from an open society's anxious public, and by professional humiliation over such undeniable miscalculations as the Bay of Pigs disaster.

Mr. Dulles began his governmental career in 1916 in the diplomatic service, from which he resigned in 1932 to enter private law practice. His work in intelligence began during World War II with the Office of Strategic Services, the near legendary OSS that was the CIA's predecessor. He was made deputy director of the CIA in 1951 and director in 1953. He retired in 1961.

A transitional figure bridging the classical and computer styles of intelligence collection and clandestine operations, Mr. Dulles deserves his countrymen's tribute for his long and honorable labors in their behalf.